

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P 281710Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4548

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5870

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI

SUBJECT: ALLEGED EXPULSION OF ABC STRINGER GEORGE ROTH (UK
NATIONAL)

REF: SANTIAGO 5852

1. EVENING AUGUST 27, SUBSEQUENT TO DEVELOPMENTS DESCRIBED REFTEL, AMBASSADOR HAD DRINKS FOR NEWLY ARRIVED PAO BELL AND PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISER FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY.
 2. WILLOUGHBY CONFIRMED EXPULSION DECREE HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR ABC STRINGER GEORGE ROTH, AND SAID HE HAD INTERCEPTED IT AND INDEED HAD IT IN HIS POCKET. HE HAD JUST SEEN ROTH AND TOLD HIM DECREE WAS HELD UP, BUT ADVISED HIM TO LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN FIVE TO TEN DAYS. WILLOUGHBY SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE STEIN OF ABC IN NEW YORK AUGUST 28 TO MAKE SAME SUGGESTION.
 3. WHILE THIS CONVERSATION WAS OCCURING, ROTH WAS TALKING TO USIS INFORMATION OFFICER WEEKS. ROTH SAID WILLOUGHBY WAS POLITE BUT FIRM. FEARING FOR HIS SAFETY, HE IS PLANNING TO LEAVE COUNTRY. DENIES ANY LEFT-WING AFFILIATION OR AFFINITY.
 4. ONE SIDELIGHT AROSE DURING DISCUSSION WITH WILLOUGHBY. WILLOUGHBY SAID EXPULSION DECREE HAD BEEN DATED AUGUST 11 AND HAD APPARENTLY BEEN WANDERING ROUTINELY THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY
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TO POINT WHERE IT WAS ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED. WILLOUGHBY EXPLAINED

HIS ORITINAL ASSERTION THAT NO EXPULSION DECREE EXISTED ON
BASIS THAT THOSE IN MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR WHO HAD SIGNED
IT HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT IN INTERIM, ASSUMING ROTH HAD LONG
SINCE LEFT THE COUNTRY. WE IMAGINE AUGUST 18 TME ARTICLE HIT
STREETS AUGUST 11.

5. WE THINK WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE COULD ON BEHALF OF ROTH, AND
BELIEVE ANY FURTHER ACTION BY US IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES
MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED BRITISH TO GET
INTO CASE, AND THEY ARE SEEING ROTH AGAIN TODAY.
POPPER

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NNN

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